

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT WATER RATES COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 8, 2003

Members Present:

John Bell
Jean Bondarevskis

Members Absent:

Brenda Baum
Anna Coelho*
Anthony Simeone
Ted Garille
Ken Payne
Al Mancini
Bill Cox
George Burke
Ken Burke
Guy Lefebvre

**designee for Anthony Simeone*

Guests:

None

Water Resources Board Staff:

Connie McGreavy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Jeanne Bondarevskis called the meeting to order at 9:53AM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Ms. McGreavy, the minutes of the March 5, 2002 meeting were approved.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Approve WAPAC Committee Presentation Timeline

Ms. Bondarevskis and Ms. McGreavy reviewed the committee's remaining timeline. Ms. Bondarevskis mentioned that the Impact Analysis Committee requested that we switch our WAPAC presentation dates with them. The Water Rates Committee was scheduled to present in June and Impact Analysis in July. Ms. McGreavy mentioned that the presentation would not be a final work product of the Committee but a presentation of what we have accomplished to date. Ms. McGreavy then mentioned that the committee should use the September – November timeframe to write a report as to our recommendations with the full WAPAC report due in December. The draft report that will encompass all committee reports will be presented to the Water Resources Board in January 2004. Ms. Bondarevskis moved to switch the WAPAC presentation date with Impact Analysis from June to July. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Follow Up Regarding Top Five Priority Areas

The committee then moved on to a review of the assigned tasks. Ms. Bondarevskis referred to the list of committee missions and deliverables for Phase that was distributed in March (high priority tasks).

Task 1 – Investigate pricing water according to value, full cycle of water use and future supply

Mr. Bell mentioned that he doesn't like the word "value" or the notion of paying for future supply. Mr. Bell recommended requiring that sewer use be billed based on consumption. A discussion ensued concerning moving to a usage rate for sewers, possibly over a 5 – 10 year period. Ms. McGreavy agreed to contact Bill Cox to see if he could find out what communities have septic and what communities have sewers and the service territories for the sewers. Ms. McGreavy also mentioned she would check the RI Geographic Information System for service territory information.

Task 2 – Prepare spreadsheet of water rates statewide

Mr. Bell agreed to develop a spreadsheet for sewer use fees/rates. Regarding categorizing suppliers and users, Ms. McGreavy will check with the RI Department of Health to sort the master list of community water suppliers by number of service connections as follows: 0 –250, 25-500, 501-750, 751 – 1000. In terms of investigating standardization of reporting rates via software (gallons), Ms. McGreavy will ask Mr. Garille from Pascoag and Mr. Faille from Lincoln Water to work on this item. Mr. Bell agreed to fax to Ms. McGreavy a copy of water usage bills for PUC-regulated utilities. Ms. McGreavy will do a mass fax to suppliers to get copies of water bills after which Mr. Mancini can provide analysis.

Task 3 – Consider Demand Side Management charge, i.e., Conservation Fund

Ms. Bondarevskis explained how she calculated potential revenue from a DSM charge using water consumption data. Ms. McGreavy agreed to e-mail Mr. Bishop concerning task 3b. on how to derive an algorithm for a DSM fee. The committee agreed that if he were unable to report on this at the May meeting, then this item would go on the back burner. Mr. Bell agreed to contact Mr. Mancini concerning task 3c. research on national associations re: DSM. Mr. Bell also agreed to look for information about the current electric DSM collaborative, such as how it determines projects to fund. Ms. McGreavy will contact Mr. Garille to report on the proper increment for a DSM charge and any carryover provision, as well as suggest potential guidelines for a DSM program (task 3d.) Ms. McGreavy will contact Mr. Payne regarding potential legislation for next session. Since he is busy with the current session, she will ask him to set aside time during the July – Sept timeframe, pending committee recommendations.

Task 4 – Evaluate use of Other Fees (hydrant fees, registration fees, impact fees)

Ms. McGreavy recommended Ken Burke and John Faille work on this task. The committee would also like them to look into capturing small water users.

Task 5 – Investigate seasonal and preferred rates for those that optimize water use

Ms. McGreavy will ask George Burke and Brian Bishop to investigate this task.

B. Reports on Relevant Studies

Ms. Bondarevskis mentioned that the committee should investigate assessing a DSM charge to private well owners. Language contained in the Wood-Pawcatuck Water Use and Availability Study (p. 26) brought this to her attention.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. A lead representative will plan to report to the WAPAC in April.

B. Ms. McGreavy will develop a task list and Ms. Bondarevskis will e-mail it to committee members.

C. The next committee meeting will be held on May 7 at 10:00AM-11: 30AM at the Providence Water Supply Board, 552 Academy Avenue, Providence.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Ms. McGreavy, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bell
RI Division of Public Utilities

**Note: For more information on Water Allocation, visit: <http://www.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/scc/wrb/index.html>.*